

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02123 241137Z

ACTION VO-05

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TAGS: CVIS, PINS, SHUM, CSCE, GE, US

SUBJECT: CSCE IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES: PRESENTATION

- OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION NON-PAPER

REF: A. STATE 71458, B. BERLIN 1953

1. ON MARCH 22 CONOFFS PRESENTED FAMILY REUNIFICATION NON-PAPER, AS DISCUSSED REFTELS, TO MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT (HERR GRAHLE). MOOD WAS FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL. GDR "NOTETAKER" WAS CHIEF OF WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS-CIVIL DOCUMENTS SECTION, WHO SAID HE WAS PERFORMING FUNCTION OF NOTETAKER SO THAT HE COULD MEET NEWLY ARRIVED VICE CONSUL WHO WAS INTRODUCED AT MEETING.

2. CONOFFS BEGAN DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR RECENT POSITIVE RESOLUTIONS AND POINTED OUT THESE ACTIONS HAD BEEN FAVORABLY NOTED IN WASHINGTON. THANKS FOR PROMPT ACTION ON KOLB-JURKIEWICZ CASE LED NATURALLY TO DISCUSSION OF ANALAGOUS SITUATION IN KOCH-MINCOLLA CASE. GRAHLE SAID CASES THAT APPEARED TO BE SIMILAR WERE OFTEN DIFFERENT IN DETAIL. CONOFF REPLIED THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF GDR REGULATIONS BY VARIOUS LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND AN INQUIRY THROUGH MFA COULD SERVE
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 02123 241137Z

TO MAKE APPLICATION OF RULES MORE CONSISTENT. GRAHLE PROMISED TO "LOOK INTO" KOCH AND SCHILLING CASES.

3. CONOFFS THEN PRESENTED COPY OF MRS. BAILEY'S LETTER TO HONECKER RE WILHELMI CASE (REF B), BRIEFLY SKETCHING BACKGROUND OF ITS PREPARATION. GRAHLE, OF COURSE, FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE, BUT HAD NOT SEEN (OR APPARENTLY HEARD ABOUT)

LETTER, WHICH HE READ VERY CAREFULLY. WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD WILHELMI HAD BROKEN GDR LAW (EVEN THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY SUCH A LAW EXISTS AND WHAT CONSTITUTES INFRINGEMENT), BUT THAT A REDUCTION IN HIS SENTENCE AND CONCOMITANT GRANTING OF EXIT PERMISSION WOULD BE VERY FAVORABLY VIEWED BY CONCERNED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

4. GRAHLE DID NOT MAKE USUAL STATEMENT OF INABILITY OF MFA TO MOVE GDR AUTHORITIES WHO ARE ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE IN SUCH MATTERS WHILE WE WERE DISCUSSING WILHELMI CASE. LATER IN CONVERSATION, WHEN CONOFFS POINTED OUT SHORTNESS OF LIST AND DESIRABILITY OF HAVING CLEAN SLATE, GRAHLE DID USE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE MFA ONLY ACTED AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO THE RESPONSIBLE GDR AUTHORITIES. THIS LED TO VERY FRANK STATEMENT OF U.S. EXPECTATIONS. CONOFF SAID THAT WE WERE VERY CAREFUL IN THESE REPRESENTATIONS TO PRESENT ONLY BONA-FIDE CASES WHICH ALSO MET GDR "RULES" ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION, AND THAT WE THEREFORE EXPECTED FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF ALL PENDING CASES. CONOFF POINTED OUT THAT RESOLUTION OF SMALL NUMBER OF REMAINING CASES COULD MEASURABLY IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF BI-LATERAL RELATIONS AND FURTHER STATED THAT A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME DEVELOPMENT FOR OPENING OF DRESDEN EXHIBIT IN THE U.S.

5. COMMENT: CONOFFS GENERAL IMPRESSION OF MEETING WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 02123 241137Z

THAT GDR PARTICIPANTS WERE MUCH LESS LEGALISTIC AND BUREAUCRATIC THAN USUAL. GDR REPS AT LEAST DID NOT DIRECTLY REFUTE SUGGESTION THAT FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES WAS A MATTER OF POLITICAL WILL AND THUS A DEMONSTRATION OF A DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE BI-LATERAL RELATIONS. WE ARE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR OUR "CUSTOMERS". BOLEN

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